



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

1200 SIXTH AVENUE, SUITE 1920
SEATTLE, WA 98101

DATE: January 27, 2016

PREPARED BY: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

CASE #: OI-SE-2013-CAC-0061

CROSS REFERENCE #:

TITLE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT: ONLINE SCAM

CASE CLOSING REPORT

Subject(s)	Location	Other Data
Unknown	Seattle, WA	N/A

VIOLATION(S): Title 18 U.S.C. § 1341 (Mail Fraud), Title 18 U.S.C. § 1343 (Wire Fraud), and Title 18 U.S.C. § 912 (Officer or Employee of the US).

ALLEGATION: On April 5, 2013, this office received information from (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), regarding potentially fraudulent activities from an unknown individual claiming to be employed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. According to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) an individual had recently accepted (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) solicitation on the Craig's List website for tutoring services and attempted to pay for (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) services with what (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) believed was a fraudulent check. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) noted other suspicious behavior during email correspondences which lead him to believe he was being victimized by an online scam.

FINDINGS: The return address on the envelope sent to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) listed (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) of (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Tennessee, as the sender. After interviewing (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) on July 25, 2013, it was determined (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was a victim of identity theft and fraudulent credit cards charges. This information was confirmed by the Giles County Sheriff's Office.

(b) (7)(E) 32 packages similar to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) were fraudulently purchased online using (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) credit card and sent to individuals across the United States. The online purchases were traced to two residences located in Stockton and Fresno, California. Individuals residing at those residences were interviewed. It appeared the adult children occasionally residing at the addresses were involved in shipping/re-shipping the packages used in this scheme.

This investigation confirmed five individuals across the U.S. were victimized in this online scam and identified at least 35 other unconfirmed individuals as potential victims. Instructions included with the fraudulent checks directed the victims to send money via Western Union to "money mules" located in Texas and Florida. A review of Western Union wire transfers determined one money mule

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identified as (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) from Texas received over \$34,000 in a two month period. Over \$8,000 of that money was ultimately wired to unknown co-conspirators in Nigeria. A review of the email correspondences of the victims confirmed the unknown co-conspirators originated from Nigeria and other overseas locations.

DISPOSITION: (b) (5), (b) (7)(E), this case was declined for prosecution by (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Assistant United States Attorney, Eastern District of California, for violations of Title 18 U.S.C. § 1341 (Mail Fraud), Title 18 U.S.C. § 1343 (Wire Fraud), and Title 18 U.S.C. § 912 (Officer or Employee of the US). It is recommended this case be closed.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
1301 CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

DATE: September 22, 2017

PREPARED BY: SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

CASE #: OI-HQ-2017-ADM-0035

CROSS REFERENCE OI-HQ-2016-ADM-0094

TITLE: CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATION INTO
ALLEGATION OF RETALIATION AGAINST (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

CASE CLOSING REPORT

Subject(s)	Location	Other Data
EPA REGION 5 MANAGEMENT	CHICAGO, IL	

VIOLATIONS: 5 U.S.C. § 2302(b)(8) Whistleblower retaliation

ALLEGATION: On November 14, 2016, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Inspector General (OIG) received a letter from the House of Representative, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (HOCR) requesting that the OIG "investigate whether any of the EPA employees (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) have been retaliated against." As background, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

concerning knowledge of the handling of sexual harassment complaints by the EPA Region 5 managers.

FINDINGS: After the initiation of this investigation, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was contacted by OIG Special Agents concerning this matter. On February 3, 2017, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) responded to the OIG OI's inquiry via e-mail, and stated (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (5)

DISPOSITION: Based on the aforementioned information, the allegation is unsupported, and this investigation is hereby closed.